

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01

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TAGS: PFOR UR US

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS CONTINUES SWEET-AND-SOUR TREATMENT
OF US

REF: MOSCOW 10383

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT OF THE US HAS CONTINUED
IN PAST TWO WEEKS TO EXHIBIT GREATER RANGE OF CRITICAL MATERIAL
THAN HAD BEEN THE CASE IN POST-SUMMIT PERIOD (REFTEL), ALTHOUGH
POSITIVE SLANT STILL PREVAILS ON MANY TOPICS. SOVIETS ARE PARTICULARLY
HARSH ON RADIO LIBERTY/RADIO FREE EUROPE QUESTION. ANTI-
IMPERIALIST STATEMENTS OF THIRD-COUNTRY ORIGIN AGAIN SPECIFICALLY
ATTACK US, AND US DOMESTIC PROBLEMS ARE BACK IN VOGUE. AT SAME
TIME, MEDIA CONTINUE TO PORTRAY US OPINION AS FAVORING DETENTE;
US-SOVIET ECONOMIC RELATIONS ARE ESPECIALLY SINGLED OUT FOR
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POSITIVE TREATMENT. ENERGY CRISIS IS ANOTHER TOPIC HIGHLIGHTED

IN RECENT REPORTING ON US. END SUMMARY

2. FURTHER SIGNS THAT SUMMIT CONSTRAINTS ON NEGATIVE PRESS TREATMENT OF US HAVE NOW BEEN EASED CANNOE SEEN IN GREATER FREQUENCY OF NEGATIVE STORIES AND TOUGHER LANGUAGE EMPLOYED. AD HOMINEM ATTACKS ON US POLITICAL LEADERS NOT TO MOSCOW'S LIKING HAVE REAPPEARED, E.G., IN PRAVDA SEPTEMBER 8 COMMENT ON PASSAGE OF RFE/RL BILL WHICH REFERS TO "ARCHREACTIONARY GOLDWATER, ZIONIST LOBBYIST JAVITS AND WAR-SENATOR JACKSON." PRAVDA PIECE AND OTHER COMMENT ON RFE/RL FUNDING HAVE BEEN AMONG MOST BITING IN MONTHS ON SPECIFICALLY AMERICAN SUBJECT.

3. THIRD-COUNTRY STATEMENTS SPECIFICALLY ATTACKING US HAVE CROPPED UP OCCASIONALLY IN PRESS RECENTLY, WHEREAS THEY HAD BEEN SOFTENED OR CENSORED IN SUMMIT PERIOD. FOREXAMPLE, LENGTHY PRAVDA EXCERPTS FROM CASTRO SPEECH AT ALGIERS INCLUDED QUOTATION CONDEMNING AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS FOR VARIOUS FOREIGN POLICY ACTIONS. A SIMILAR PASSAGE APPEARED IN TASS ENGLISH REPORT OF ALMA ATA AFRO-ASIAN WRITERS CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT CARRIED IN PRAVDA.

4. MEDIA PROTRAYAL OF US DOMESTIC PROBLEMS HAD ALSO BROADENED. IZVESTIYA SEPTEMBER 5 RESUSCITATED KENNEDY ASSASSINATION--A PERENNIAL SOVIET FAVORITE--BY FRESH COVERAGE OF GARRISON TRIAL IN NEW ORLEANS. PLIGHT OF MIGRANT WORKERS HAS BEEN TREATED BY ITINERANT PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT STRELNIKOV (SEPTEMBER 6) AND IN REPLAY OF NYT ARTICLE IN PRAVDA SEPTEMBER 7. INFLATION IN US IS GIVEN ALMOST DAILY COVERAGE (ALTHOUGH OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE ALSO RECEIVING ATTENTION). FINALLY, WATERGATE IS NOT QUITE AS TABOO AS BEFORE: AN IZVESTIYA REPORT (SEPTEMBER 7) ON RETURN OF CONGRESS CITES IT AS DISTRACTIONWHICH HINDERED WORK OF CONGRESS EARLIER IN YEAR.

5. ON POSITIVE SIDE OF COINT, BILATERAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES ARE FAVORABLY PUBLICIZED, RECENT EXAMPLES BEING VISIT OF SECRETARY WEINBERGER AND PROTOCOL ON COOPERATION IN FORESTRY. SKYLAB IS REGULARLY AND POSITIVELY COVERED. IN A SPECIAL CATEGORY ARE BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND TRADE QUESTIONS, EPITOMIZED BY DONALD KENDALL CALL ON BREZHNEV, SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA AUGUST 30 INTERVIEW WITH US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT RUST, SEPTEMBER 2 PRAVDA TASS INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL CHASE MANHATTAN REPRESENTATIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WENTWORTH IN WHICH HE WAS REPORTED TO BE HIGHLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR EXPANDED US-USSR TRADE, AND BEGINNING OF PRESS BUILDUP FOR VISIT OF SECRETARY SHULTZ AND PARTY. MAJORITY OF AMERICANS ARE PORTRAYED AS FAVORING DETENTE AND CONCIMITANT CLOSE ECONOMIC RELATIONS. PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON OPENING OF GATT TOKYO SESSION IS REPORTED IN CONTEXT OF HIS SUPPORT FOR TRADE BILL INCLUDING MFN. INTERESTINGLY, KISSINGER CONFIRMATION HEARINGS SEPTEMBER 7, INCLUDING DEFENCE OF MFN, HAVE BEEN IGNORED

SO FAR--PROBABLY BECAUSE SOVIETS HAVEN'T DECIDED HOW TO HANDLE
SECRETARY-DESIGNAGE'S COMMENTS ON SAKHAROV.

6. ANOTHER SUBJECT GIVEN MUCH ATTENTION IS US ENERGY CRISIS.
SOVIETS ARE ATTUNED TO SIGNS THAT US POLICY TOWARD ARAB WORLD
BEING AFFECTED BY ENERGY NEEDS. PRAVDA SEPTEMBER 9 INTERNATIONAL
REVIEW DISCUSSED STOCKHOLDER LETTER FROM STANDARD OIL CALIFORNIA
BOARD CHARIMAN AS EVIDENCE OF POLITICAL PAYOFF FOR ARABS.
PRESIDENT' STATEMENT TO WHITE HOUSE ENERGY CONFERENCE THAT US
SHOULD NOT BECOME FULLY DEPENDENT ON IMPORTED ENERGY WAS REPORTED
PRAVDA SEPTEMBER 10. ASIDE FROM MIDDLE EAST IMPLICATIONS, SOVIET
PUBLIC ATTENTION UNDOUBTEDLY STEMS FROM INTEREST IN BECOMING ENERGY
SUPPLIER TO US.
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